

Office of General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR # 5722

Date: March 17, 2006

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1 2006 MAR 21 A 10: 59

To Whom It May Concern:

In early December 2005, I read an article in the Kane County Chronicle regarding a telephone poll conducted in October 2005/November 2005. Please see *Exhibit B*.

A number of friends had also confirmed that they received such a telephone poll. Apparently this poll was geared toward Republican voters in the 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The nature of the questions revolved around the Congressional district that Congressman J. Dennis Hastert currently represents.

This poll had pointed questions such as:

- Who would you vote for Congress? Senator Chris Lauzen, Kane County Chairman Karen McConaughay, State Representative Tim Schmitz, House Republican Leader Tom Cross?
- Would you be more or less inclined to vote for Chris Lauzen if you knew:  
He sponsored a bill to....  
He voted for.....  
Got into a fight with.....

It is my understanding that exploratory polls for a congressional seat can not be paid for from a state campaign account. Because the nature of the questions appeared to promote State Senator Chris Lauzen for Congress, I was curious about who paid for such a poll.

As you know, the Illinois State Board of Elections requires bi-annual campaign disclosure reports. In reviewing Senator Lauzen's most recent disclosure report, I had questions regarding some of his expenditures. I do not believe he is being truthful about the nature of his expenditures with Sherman Consulting. Specifically, Senator Lauzen seems vague regarding the nature of his December 7, 2005 expenditure of \$12,750. Please see *Exhibit A* for more information.

**Exhibit A**

Sherman Consulting Inc.	858 W Armitage Ave Chicago, IL 60614	\$4,000.00 8/29/2005	Expenditure <u>Friends for Lauzen</u>	Political mailing Friends for Lauzen
Sherman Consulting Inc.	858 W Armitage Ave Chicago, IL 60614	\$288.70 8/29/2005	Expenditure <u>Friends for Lauzen</u>	Romanian conference call coord. Friends for Lauzen
Sherman Consulting Inc.	858 W Armitage Ave Chicago, IL 60614	\$12,750.00 12/7/2005	Expenditure <u>Friends for Lauzen</u>	Campaign consulting services Friends for Lauzen

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One of Sherman Consulting's specialties is campaign strategy. Sherman's website says the following: "With speed, accuracy, and sophistication, we provide your campaign with accurate polling and voter targeting intelligence that turns a seemingly chaotic campaign into rational science." Sherman Consulting's website: [www.shermanconsultinginc.com](http://www.shermanconsultinginc.com).

On January 17, 2006, I received an email that would normally be sent from Senator Lauzen. However, I noticed that this email was sent from "Lauzen for Congress". Please see *Exhibit C*. I attempted to view his committee information on the FEC's website. However, Lauzen for Congress is not registered with the Federal Election Committee. The next day a "correction" email was sent out. A copy of this email is enclosed. Please see *Exhibit D*.

It is my hope the FEC will get to the truth of the matter. As a voter, I want to elect someone who intends to serve in the capacity to which he/she was elected. I want to be able to believe in the legislative process once again. As his constituent and a voter, I am outraged to think that Senator Lauzen would intentionally mislead his district. I am further angered that he would deliberately violate FEC guidelines by using his state campaign funds to pay for a poll. Where is the accountability here?

I believe the information I provided will be as compelling to you as it is to me. Please do not hesitate to write me if I can be of additional assistance.

Respectfully,



Lisa Pierce

Elgin, IL 60123

Signed and sworn to before me Nancy L. Joiner  
a Notary.

  
3/17/06

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\* \* \*

Have you received a phone call over the past few weeks, asking you to take a survey on local politicians? A few people who got the call and answered the survey questions now are wondering who was behind it and what was its purpose. I'll stop myself from asking why anyone would answer questions asked by a stranger over the phone and try to clear up a few things.

First, the survey was much like what we refer to as a "push poll." That is, the questions were phrased in such a way as to shape the responses. Most of the questions in this poll seemed to promote a certain state senator as the likely replacement for Rep. Dennis Hastert, which is a bit odd considering Hastert is running for re-election in 2006 -- making the poll premature, to say the least.

The pollsters further muddy the waters by asking respondents which of several other area state representatives would be a good candidate for Hastert's job. Because none of the reps mentioned in this question has anything to do with the poll, has no desire to challenge Hastert for his seat, and are busy running for re-election to their state jobs, the survey is causing them no end of problems. They tell me that constituents are calling and asking why they're "running against Denny," and whether they are giving up their state offices.

Until someone steps forward, it'll remain a mystery who paid for the survey. But regardless, several points need to be made. First, let's be blunt here: Denny stays as long as Denny wants. He'll leave when he's good and ready, and he will probably be very clear as to whom he would like to succeed him. However, I can say with some certainty that it is unlikely to be the state senator mentioned in the phone survey. And because there seems to be a question in the air, the person I would put my money on to get Hastert's blessing is state Rep. Tim Schmitz of Batavia.

And I could have told you that before the phone rang.

Exhibit  
B

27044161924

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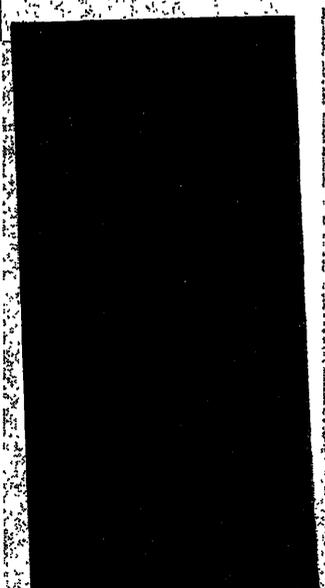
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Exhibit  
C



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Subject: Lauzen For Congress??

To: [Redacted]

From: Lauzen for Congress [mailto:campaign@lauzen.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2006 1:50 PM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Capital Spending Done Properly and State of the State Speech Preview



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Capital Spending Done Properly and State of the State Speech Preview  
By: Chris Lauzen

Building schools, roads, and bridges is a good thing. if it's done properly. However, passing a capital spending program during an election year is a bit like grocery shopping when you're hungry.

There's nothing that some politicians love more during a campaign than cutting out projects in their districts paid for by taxpayers. Yet, most taxpayers whom I listen like to see their politicians go on a fiscal diet instead.

There is little doubt that Governor Blagojevich will trumpet his spending largesse. Kids taxpayer-subsidized healthcare for all resident children in Illinois, including the illegal immigrants. He will tell us how he has solved the budget crisis that he inherited from George Ryan, without mentioning how he has doubled the public debt in Illinois, raided the public pension funds for \$2 Billion. And, he will sell the benefits of a massive Capital Spending Program without disclosing essential details. When you hear the pitch, please ask yourself the same questions that I'll be asking.

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staff on your behalf First, after his failure to fund the existing teachers' pension commitments agreed to in the 1994 law and failure to fund necessary projects arc state promised in the 2002 budget, why should we believe that he will keep his pr under a new proposal?

Where is a comprehensive list of the spending projects? We want a plan, not just release Does this list include the necessary matching funds to secure the federa for Illinois that Speaker Hastert obtained? And, does the Blagojevich plan include correct amount of money to finish the project completely? How can he assure me the Senate that he'll release the funds on time?

How will he pay for \$3,000,000,000 of new debt? He is already diverting \$650M a year of our gas taxes away from roads and bridges to general spending This is \$ more per year than even free-wheeling George Ryan spent in his final budget

And, does "Keno for Kids" really send the right message to our kids that we pay fr books and schools by gambling? The news reports of two campaign contributors Blagojevich campaign who are deeply involved in the Keno industry further demo that this administration is hopelessly submerged in politically-connected special ir proposals. Two or three years down the line, what will federal prosecutors uncov not being disclosed now?

What concessions have been obtained from road-builders so that roads don't buc years? These contracts need to be competitively-bid in a way that both citizens a federal prosecutors don't call for even more investigations of pay-to-play allegatio have hounded an administration that solemnly promised us to "end business as u Springfield"

The funds need to be equitably allocated throughout the state and based upon ne example, the best capital spending program that I'm familiar with in Illinois is the S Construction Matching Grant In order to receive state taxpayer funds, school lea need to successfully run the gauntlet of passing a referendum after full review by taxpayers. Then, funds are matched on a sliding scale based on property wealth i e poorer districts get up to approximately 55% of the project cost and wealthier receive approximately 35% There was a "waiting line" that was deliberately and assembled according to publicly-reviewed criteria under the Edgar and Ryan

Administration which I understand is no longer in place in the Blagojevich Adminis If angry phone calls from constituents are any indication, taxpayers are pretty sick Blagojevich arbitrarily making commitments of \$10M of public money to embryoni cell research, commitments to Katrina survivors (no matter how deserving they m and \$1,000,000 to rebuild Pioneer Baptist Church's school despite general insura proceeds, contractors' liability insurance, and an out-pouring of private donations All we want is good public policies We want honest competent government We manage taxpayer's money as scrupulously and carefully as we manage our own Route 47 widened through Yorkville, bridge repairs properly done on Rt. 47 over I road-work done in Hampshire, Sugar Grove, and St Charles, along with other ne infrastructure improvements and \$500M into the School Construction Matching G important to all of us But, we will exercise prudence and fiscal discipline rather th reflexively grabbing for goodies

I hope to vote "yes" eventually on a Capital Spending Program, but only if it's prop done In the past we've sent a whale-of-a-lot of money to Springfield but only got minnow in return

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**Paid for by Friends for Lauzen**  
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Exhibit D

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Subject: Fwd: FW: Voice from the Senate Floor

To: [redacted], tnschmitz@msn.com

Note: forwarded message attached

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Subject: FW: Voice from the Senate Floor

Date: Tue, 17 Jan 2006 16:23:32 -0600

From: [redacted]

To: [redacted]

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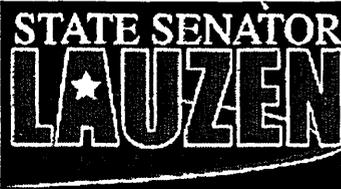
-----Original Message-----

From: [State Senator Chris Lauzen \[mailto:campaign@lauzen.com\]](mailto:campaign@lauzen.com)

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2006 3:28 PM

To: [redacted]

Subject: Voice from the Senate Floor



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Capital Spending Done Properly and State of the State Speech Preview

By: Chris Lauzen

*\*CORRECTION The previous email contained an erroneous Display Name Senator Lauzen is re-election to the Illinois State Senate*

Building schools, roads, and bridges is a good thing . if it's done properly . However passing a capital spending program during an election year is a bit like grocery shopping when you're hungry

There's nothing that some politicians love more during a campaign than cutting rip projects in their districts paid for by taxpayers . Yet, most taxpayers whom I listen like to see their politicians go on a fiscal diet instead

There is little doubt that Governor Blagojevich will trumpet his spending largesse . Kids taxpayer-subsidized healthcare for all resident children in Illinois, including the illegal immigrants . He will tell us how he has solved the budget crisis that he inherited from George Ryan, without mentioning how he has doubled the public debt in Illinois . He has raided the public pension funds for \$2 Billion . And, he will sell the benefits of a massive Capital Spending Program without disclosing essential details

When you hear the pitch, please ask yourself the same questions that I'll be asking staff on your behalf. First, after his failure to fund the existing teachers' pension commitments agreed to in the 1994 law and failure to fund necessary projects already state promised in the 2002 budget, why should we believe that he will keep his promise under a new proposal?

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What concessions have been obtained from road-builders so that roads don't buckle in years? These contracts need to be competitively-bid in a way that both citizens and federal prosecutors don't call for even more investigations of pay-to-play allegations . Have you hounded an administration that solemnly promised us to "end business as usual in Springfield"

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